



DRIVE FORWARD SEATTLE



September 13, 2019

The Honorable Jenny Durkan
Mayor of Seattle
600 4th Ave
7th Floor
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Mayor Durkan,

We are writing you again today to continue to express our concern that the voices of our members are not being heard in City Hall. As was mentioned in our Executive Director's email to you on September 4, 2019, with over 2000 members, Drive Forward Seattle is the largest association exclusively representing Rideshare, Taxi, For-Hire, and app-based delivery drivers in the State of Washington. Additionally, we are keenly aware of the negotiations ongoing between you, the Teamsters, Lyft, and Uber. We are also aware of the general topics under discussion including, minimum hourly guaranteed earnings inclusive of expenses, the creation of a "driver's association" which would administrate a discipline/deactivation review panel, the creation of a driver's benefit fund that could administer a wide range of benefits for drivers depending on its size, clarifying the status of drivers as independent contractors, and the expansion of a TNC-only pick-up tax for trips originating in Seattle.

On Wednesday evening, September 11, 2019, we held a General Membership Meeting for members of Drive Forward at which we discussed the issues being negotiated without our input. During this meeting our members directed us to inform you of their stance on these issues and what they will or will not support.

- We will support:
 - A minimum hourly guarantee of \$27.50/hr. inclusive of expenses, exclusive of tips, based on Phase 2 and Phase 3 time that is pegged to Seattle's minimum wage.
 - A Driver Discipline/Deactivation Review Board managed by an INDEPENDENT drivers association
 - The creation of a Driver's Benefit Fund, managed by an INDEPENDENT driver's association, to administer some selection of benefits for drivers to ensure some type of safety net, possibly including injury protection, work interruption, paid sick leave, healthcare, dental, vision, retirement contribution match, paid time off, long-term disability, and/or short-term disability
 - The creation of an INDEPENDENT Driver's Association, whose selection is determined through an open and fair process that is not biased toward any single existing or newly created organization, and is approved on a vote, by secret ballot, of ALL licensed TNC drivers in King County administered by King County Elections.
 - An increase of the current City of Seattle TNC tax not to exceed \$0.50 as long as 100% of funds raised goes to fund the above Driver's Association, the Driver's Benefits Fund and any costs associated with their selection, creation and administration.



- A guarantee in law that drivers working on rideshare platforms remain Independent Contractors.
- The City of Seattle supporting the creation of a statewide framework for the basic regulation of TNCs, TNC drivers, and their vehicles.
- We will not support
 - Any process by which favor is shown to Teamsters Local 117, the App Based Driver's Association, or any affiliate of those organizations, as their track record of support for TNC drivers, shows a blatant desire to either eliminate TNCs from Seattle or to regulate the industry in such a way as to break its business model and make it unworkable. Those organizations' longstanding association with Yellow Cab leaves no question about why they have such a track record.
 - Any portion of any additional tax levied on TNC trips disbursed to Teamsters 117, the App-Based Drivers Association, or affiliates of those organizations.
 - Any portion of any additional tax levied on TNC trips used for any purpose other than to benefit TNC drivers or to administer programs that directly benefit drivers, examples of uses that we consider not directly benefiting TNC drivers are, funding transit, infrastructure, affordable housing, the homelessness crisis, or a buyout of taxi medallions.
 - Any requirement to have any collective or sectorial bargaining.

We firmly believe that the above positions will be acceptable, even if reluctantly, to the TNC companies, and we are ready to stand behind a leader bold enough to solidify a deal based on these principles. In doing so you, Mayor Durkan, and the City of Seattle, will once again be leading the nation on issues of workers' rights, fair pay, social justice, and building an economy for the future. This can be the model that the rest of the nation looks to when they consider how best to develop progressive, fair, and sensible TNC regulations.

We sincerely hope to be supporting you in this effort in the very near future and look forward to discussing this matter at your earliest convenience.

Best Regards,

Drive Forward Seattle Driver Advisory Committee

Lynn Reed Kathy Paul James Lockhart James Radmacher Alex Nachman

Drive Forward Seattle Leadership

Michael Wolfe
Executive Director (and driver)

Jacqui Morris
Engagement Director (and driver)